

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

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WITHIN THE WEEK

We continue a subject broached last wk—the matter of continuing employment for those who have been engaged in war work. We have never accepted the figures of the more pessimistic element on unemployment. Long before the end of the war we were forecasting a speed of reconversion that will set new records in our productive history.

Much is made of the fact that we built our war industries under pressure—and these pressures are now released. But we should not overlook the fact that we now have new pressures and incentives—the urge to get on with our work; to ret'n to a normal way of life; to be 1st on the mkt with our wares. There is now abroad in the land an animation, and a spirit of enterprise that can never be present in industry-under-orders, no matter how strong the compulsion. America is now bldg for her future. The people sense this, and one of the most significant developments is the spirit in which they are accepting release from war work. They are not fearful or downcast, but look confidently toward an era of peacetime production.

The next few wks may show that reconversion is an over-rated bugaboo. Nat'l Ass'n of Mfgs, surveying its mbrship, finds that high percentage are ready now for peacetime production. Their war and civilian pro-

ducts are virtually identical; it's merely a matter of channeling. Other manufacturers need only a few wks, if basic materials are available.

G I EMPLOYMENT: Many laymen will be surprised, shocked by Gen'l HERSHEY's statement that job guarantee for vets ends automatically when Congress terminates hostilities. However, the veteran groups, and particularly the American Legion, are well aware of this limitation and are already well along with plans for new legislation. Matter of fact, there has been gen'l feeling all along that provisions of so-called G I Bill of Rights were inadequate to meet situation. Long-range objective of the veteran groups is not so much protection of an individual job for the homecoming serviceman. They seek a system of *job preference* for veterans. Many men now in service have gained new skills, outgrown former occupations. Others were too young to acquire job records in pre-war period. Thought is to give protection to all. This is difficult undertaking. Organized labor will oppose any move for job preference to veterans that threatens established seniority. Meanwhile, individual veteran who wants his job back will, in great majority of cases, find his former employer ready to make a place for him.



SHIFTING SANDS

Unemployment is bound to be controversial subject in U S economic circles for next 6 mo's or so. Keep in mind that labor leaders (and some liberals) will paint blackest picture possible in order to stampede Congress into voting big add'l unemployment compensation. (They will be only partially successful.) No matter what you may hear or read, fact is no one can say how many are unemployed on given date. Only record will be number released from war jobs. Labor will make much of these figures, but many will be promptly re-employed and others will retire from labor mkt. Unemployment compensation applications are out of date by the time they are compiled and analyzed. Be suspicious of *any* unemployment figures. They can't be authentic with situation changing day to day. Particularly distrust estimates of future unemployment. It is obvious that they cannot be anything more than good (or bad) guesses.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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"It is assumed the Allies will not avail themselves of imperial armed forces for labor as in the case of Germany."—Japanese newspaper, *Yomiuri Hochi*, preparing people for Allied occupation.

"Labor will pay a heavy penalty in the postwar period if the division in its ranks continues."—WILLIAM GREEN, president, American Federation of Labor.

"If you wish to obtain assistance from the U S, you must be careful about the nasty things you say about private enterprise."—Sir OLIVER LYTTLETON, former Conservative pres of Board of Trade, addressing British House of Commons.

"Boy, am I happy! I can see myself strutting down the street with my dad."—JAMES PATRICK DEVEREUX II, on being informed that his father, Lt Col JAMES P DEVEREUX, hero of Wake Island had been located in a Japanese prison camp near Peiping.

"I wouldn't care to state precisely the size of the fortune I have accumulated, but I'm willing to admit that I've used my presidential position to get credit when golden opportunities fell in my lap."—ANASTASIO SOMOZA, pres of Nicaragua.

"It would be the summit of injustice for restorations to be made by Germany to the Allied nations consisting of property illegally and mercilessly taken from the Jews."—Dr A LEON KUBOWITZKY, gen'l sec'y of the World Jewish congress, suggesting that property of Jews killed by Germans who had no heirs should be turned over to Jewish people as a whole.

"If I like a man I'd go out with him if he was a Hottentot—but not a German."—Pvt DEMARTS CLARK, a WAC of Portland, Ore, commenting on letter written to Army newspaper, *Star & Stripes* by unidentified WAC sgt, asking if WAC mbrs were permitted to fraternize with German men. Query has provoked flood of bitter letters from other WACs, who make it clear they want nothing to do with German males.

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"Envoys of Son of Heaven Come Down to Earth."—*Boston Globe*, headlining visit of the Japanese envoys to Manila.

"The atomic bomb is not nearly so powerful as words well spoken."—Sen RAYMOND E WILLIS, of Indiana, addressing graduating class at Franklin College.

"Starting from here, the custom-is-always-right trend is on the upswing."—Harrassed gas station owner, on 1st day of Japanese surrender offer. (Quoted in *Printer's Ink*)

"I bought these during the shortage and now I'm afraid they'll go stale. Will you buy them back please?"—Washington woman who walked into a drugstore loaded down with 21 cartons of popular brand cigarettes, attempted to sell them back to the clerk. No sale!

"If any (mine owners) should foolishly seek to put obstacles in my way, I shall have no hesitation in applying all the power I possess to deal with the situation."—EMANUEL SHINWELL, minister of fuel and power in new British cabinet, expressing determination to speed public ownership of British coal mines.

"Why should I set fire to a church when that's where I get my living."—JULIUS GOSS, of Chicago, accused by police of setting fire to a church indignantly denied charge, related that he had made his living for 48 yrs by robbing church poor boxes, counted on a \$20 take each Sunday. His tool: a pencil tipped with chewing gum.

"I am told that if necessary the Allied commanders will again use the atomic bomb against Japan."—A political correspondent of *London Daily Mail*.

"Being a censor hasn't been any fun since Germany surrendered, anyway."—British Ministry of Information official, when it was announced that British censorship will cease when the Japanese final surrender in the field comes.

"There's almost nothing I can't fix."—OLIVIA WENTZEL, aged 23, confident in her position as only licensed feminine apprentice plumber in Illinois.

"And I lost a good (hay) stack cover."—Ed NORTH, of Bigelow, Kans, after carefully hauling down a Japanese balloon caught in a tree on his farm, reported it to the sheriff. Army authorities immediately came and took away his balloon.

"Our reply was unprintable."—Lt J R ANDERSON, pilot of B-32 reconnaissance bomber, attacked by Jap fighter planes over Tokyo area after surrender terms were supposedly accepted. When ANDERSON radioed a companion B-32 to "Slow down" a Japanese pilot speaking English broke in: "Yes, slow down so I can shoot you."

"Let us greet the U S 1st with a 'sorry' for believing such nonsense about them—and then with a cheer."—J B PRIESTLEY, British author, in a letter to *London Times*, retracting earlier allegations of waste and destruction of surplus supplies by U S army. U S army officers, he said, had proved the rumors wholly unfounded.

"It's going to be very difficult to play before a common people—that is, civilians—again. The GIs are so sophisticated. They react with such taste, and you must play with absolute realism. They can see everything. If you trick it, there's no laugh."—ALFRED LUNT, describing his experiences after 2 yrs of performing for USO camp shows in Europe.

"Closed — Gone Fishing."—Sign observed on a sea food restaurant in Oklahoma City.

"Would it be proper to tip the crew?"—Lt Gen'l TORASHIRO KAWABE, head of Japanese surrender delegation flown to Manila by American flyers. The answer: an emphatic "no!"

"You'd think there was a war on."—Sgt NELSON LOVELAND who rushed into an army field service club during the height of the celebration following announcement of Japan's capitulation, ordered a hamburger. "No hamburgers today," said the waitress. "It's meatless Tuesday."

"We just laughed about it."—JACK BENNY, following a recent call upon Pres TRUMAN at the White House. Newsmen reminded the comedian that at a Nat'l Press club party last winter he had shouted at Mr TRUMAN, "Vice president or no vice president, you keep in tempo!" They asked whether he had apologized.

"I don't want to have floodlights from newsreels pointed on me so that I will have to wear sunglasses on my own bench." — Supreme Court Justice ERICK SOLEM, head of Oslo court, barring pressmen from the trial of VIDKUN QVISTLING. SOLEM declared, "We will not hold the trial like that of PETAIN, where pressmen were waving all over the courtroom and there was even a microphone on the judge's bench."

"No Negro in the Arkansas swamps ever lived in such a house as the one shown in *The Southerner*."—LLOYD T BINFORD, chairman of Memphis Board of Censors, who banned movie *Brewster's Millions* in his city a few mo's ago because it showed Negroes in dignified roles, now has banned *The Southerner* which he claims portrays Southerners as "ignorant, low-down white trash." An Atlanta spokesman for David Loew, the producer, countered, "Perhaps not, but Mr Binford could find several behind the state capitol in Atlanta."—(Quoted in *The Nation*)

"We just got tired of sleeping hard, so we decided to do something about it."—JOHN C BUNN, one of two Seabees who invented machine for softening GI Mattresses on Tinian, in the Marianas.

"I have to take her for an auto ride every morning, or she won't lay an egg."—COVERT MCBRIDE, of Linton, Ind, explaining why his pet hen accompanies him to town so often.

"It gives me a thrill I can't get any other way. I go straight for weeks at a time, then all of a sudden my fingers begin to quiver."—TILLIE DORP ("Tillie the Dip"), explaining, after her 19th arrest, why she kept picking pockets.

"There's no future in riveting. We want to run a dude ranch."—VIRGINIA CONRADSON and EILEEN HOLT, who traveled 1200 miles on horseback from Los Angeles, where they worked in an aircraft factory, to Stoneham, Colo. in 41 days.

"Our job is to get out of the woods—where we found ourselves when the surrender came—and the 1st thing to do is to tackle the trees right in front of us. The public has to do this job. The gov't can only help us"—High gov't official, discussing home front future a few days after Japanese surrender.

"All the books say that man's faithful pal, the family dog, is supposed to meet you at the door, pitiful with joy. Our pooch just opened one eye, gave his tail one wag—and went back to sleep."—Lt BARNARD WELTON, of Detroit, who declared that he was "a disillusioned old man," as a result of this homecoming experience.

"But there is no use hiding from the fact that some will get thru."—LOUIS BRUCHISS, aerial armaments expert, predicting that radar could be useful in warding off possible atomic bomb attacks. BRUCHISS stated that the only real protection would be going underground in a hitherto undreamed-of scale since atomic bomb could not penetrate earth's surface very far.

"No meat—Please limit your griping to 5 min."—Sign reported by ORVILLE E REED, Howell, Mich.

"We can have peace and rising living standards from now on if we'll just use 47½% of the brawn and brains God gave us."—BERNARD M BARUCH, interviewed on his 75th birthday.

"The refund check is yours to do with as you please."—Note accompanying tax refund check from Treasury Dep't, rec'd by JAMES KENDALL, Ass't State Att'y Gen'l of Jackson, Miss. Am't of check: 2¢.

"If they did away with every man, woman and child in England tonight, this would be a better world."—Statement attributed to THEODORE DREISER, in Hollywood, current topic of a good deal of conversation in movie circles.

"Occasionally there are portions of our press that give me the devil. We should keep our sense of values and not be upset by a few crackpots."—Gen'l DWIGHT EISENHOWER, on leaving Moscow, imparted a final word of advice to Russian newsmen regarding freedom of the American press.



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COLUMNIST'S COLUMN

Petticoat Rule

RUTH MILLETT

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

"Too much petticoat rule," said a probation officer who was diagnosing the case of a 15-yr-old who had gotten into some minor scrapes.

That may be a good diagnosis—but what is the cure in these times when kids have grown up entirely under "petticoat rule"?

The majority of women who must bring up children without a father's help try to do a good job. But a mother isn't naturally equipped to be both a mother and a father.

For the most part, nobody has given war wives help in bringing up their kids. The men left in a community could have organized to help war wives with the problem of bringing up their sons—but they haven't.

It has been left entirely up to the women, and the average kid with a father overseas doesn't come under the influence of men at all. At home there is just a mother, and at school there are women teachers. Boys' organizations in most communities are suffering from a lack of men leaders...

It isn't blame they need. It is help. Bringing up children without a man's example and firmness is something they didn't bargain for, whether the father is out of the picture because the home is broken permanently or temporarily because of war. Mothers know their kids suffer from having only a woman to guide and discipline them. And they are more anxious than anybody else for the "petticoat rule" to end as soon as possible.

AGE—Youth

When a little boy's grandmother came to pay a visit, a playmate observed, "Your grandmother's old; she has white hair."

For an instant the little boy was silent. Then, his eyes flashing, he said, "My grandmother is not old; she has a smiling face."—*Harry Doehla Magazine*.

AIR AGE

An interesting sign of the times is a "school for flying farmers" at Okla. Agricultural college. One hundred farmers will demonstrate how they use airplanes in marketing products, dusting cotton, spraying fruit, etc.—*Progressive Farmer*.

APPRECIATION—Lack

Were you one of us, back in '10, who craned our necks to view Halley's comet hanging in the sky?

"Yes, comets are flashy while they last," an astronomer once told me. "But suppose Jupiter or Orion or the Southern Cross were visible only once every 75 yrs. Can you imagine what a spectacle that would be?"

The faintest stars shone brighter for me after that chance remark.—*MARGARETTA HARMON, "How Sensitive Are You?" Family Circle, 8-3-'45.*

CHRISTIANITY—Practice

Many of us who profess to be Christians are so busy with the mechanics of our religion that we have no time left for the spiritual part of it.—*WM B MARTIN, teacher of a Community Bible class, Santa Ana, Calif.*

DRINK—Drinking

Despite the scarcity and high prices, the nickel whisky is still available in the Southwest, a recent autopsy shows.—*H V WADE, Detroit News.*

ENTERPRISE

The sensational and spectacular have their place, but often the man who can see opportunity on the sidelines reaps the greater benefits.

W Buchanan-Taylor, the English journalist, tells of a barber who, as a stunt, agreed to enter a den of lions and shave the lion-tamer.

The lions growled, but the barber went ahead with his work. But

when he came out of the cage he was considerably chagrined to learn that a competing barber, with a shop in the same street, had been going thru the crowd distributing his own advertising cards.—*Peg-matites, hm, Golding-Keene Co.*

They DO say . . .

A headline writer on the *Syracuse Post-Standard* proved himself a good punster, if a poor prophet. A few hrs before gasoline rationing was abolished there came to his desk a routine story of an offending driver deprived of supplemental gasoline for the war period. He promptly pencilled the inspired head: "Long Time No 'C'!" . . . With more timeliness than taste, a movie press agent is now billing *Incendiary Blonde* as "Paramount's newest Atomic Bomb." . . . With war's end, British citizens may now ret'n to their favorite occupation, "writing to the *Times*," on matters of deathless import. Current controversy now flourishing in the Literary Supplement: how a title should be placed on the backbone of a book. . . Adding support to contention that Gov't bureaus haven't heard of a paper shortage, *Writer's Digest* lists a 256-page report of Census bureau. Subject: comparative fertility of women between ages of 15 and 49 in yrs '40 and '10.

FAMINE

Mankind can be uncivilized and well fed, but he cannot be civilized, moral or even decent if famishing. Famished people will not be law-abiding or peace-loving, but beasts of the jungle; and social jungles, like natural ones, always encroach upon civilized gardens.—*DOROTHY THOMPSON, "A Call to American Women," Ladies Home Jnl, 8-'45.*

FASHION—and Fate

The postwar style of women's clothes may spell the fate of this and every other civilized nation. . . Curves signify contentment; the vertical line expresses discontent. . . When women begin to flatten their figures and wear exaggerated hats, there is trouble brewing.—*LIDDELL HART, London Daily Mail.*

FOOD—Future

All the experts agree that by 1950, probably before, we shall have huge agricultural "surpluses" and that the situation will be aggravated by rapid advances in every field of science and technology connected with food. To call it revolution a-coming would be an understatement. What the American housewife may expect during the immediate postwar yrs is a pandemonium, a 6-ring battle royal of nutritionists and plant breeders, of dehydrators, canners, and quick freezers, of locker plant operators and air transport carriers.—JAMES RORRY and N PHILIP NORMAN, "All the Food That's Fit to Eat," *Harper's Magazine*, 8-'45.

GERMAN—Propaganda

A young Army lieutenant stationed in Germany reported last wk that numerous Germans had told him slavery still existed in the U S. Their information was based on the fact that in school, German children were taught that American baseball clubs sold players to one another.—*N Y Times*.

HUMOR

A sure test of a person's sense of humor is whether he will be angry when accused of lack of humor.—*Counterpoints*, hm, World Book Co.

IMAGINATION

A few summers ago I spent several nights in a large, ramshackled, old house. Sometimes I would wake in the night and hear strange noises made to order. All I had to do was think of any kind of enemy and at once I could hear his stealthy step. And there are those who live their whole lives in this fashion.—CLOVIS G CHAPPEL, *Sermons on the Lord's Prayer*. (Abingdon-Cokesbury)

JUSTICE

Out in Nevada a mining claim was pending before a certain old-time western judge with a reputation for a rather rough-and-ready brand of justice. One morning his honor made the following remarkable statement:

"Gentlemen, this court has in hand a check from the plaintiff for \$10,000 and a check from the

defendant for \$15,000. The court will return \$5,000 to the defendant, and then we will try this case strictly on its merits."—*Wall Street Journal*.

LOGIC—Applied

A roadside sign in Normandy reads, "Pasture your horse here. Short-tailed horses, 10¢ a day; long-tailed horses, 20¢ a day."

A local peasant, asked to explain the distinction, ans'd: "A short-tailed horse is bothered all the time by flies. To shake them off he has to use his head, and while doing that he can't eat. A long-tailed horse can handle the situation with his tail without raising his mouth from the grass. The men of Normandy would never pay as much for grazing a short-tailed horse as a long-tailed one."—*Paris Miroir du Monde*.

MOTION PICTURES

Juliette Lowell wrote a book. . . Before she got thru peddling it to movies she'd sold the title to 20th Century-Fox, which didn't care for the story, and the story to Metro-Goldwyn, which didn't go for the title!—JACK LAIT, *N Y Daily Mirror*.

POSTWAR—Planning

Washington is accentuating the negative these days.

The OPA is talking about "decontrol" of prices, (the business of removing price controls when no longer needed); the army contributes "depipelining" (the process of draining back stocks under way to Europe), and now around the war production board talk has been heard about "decentives" (the opposite of incentive).—*Chicago Sun*.

PRAYER

Prayer is the greatest force that we can wield. It is the greatest talent which God has given us. There is a democracy in this matter. We may differ among ourselves as to our wealth, as to our social position, as to our educational equipment, as to native ability, as to our inherited characteristics but in the matter of exercising the greatest force that is at work in the world today, we are on the same footing.—J R MORR, *Christian Observer*.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

Contrary to popular belief, war apparently does not stimulate invention insofar as the gen'l public is concerned. U S Patent Office has announced a 41.5% decline in patents issued for the war period. Two reasons are suggested: (1) people have been too busy with war production, and (2) young men, the natural inventors, have been in armed forces with little opportunity to tinker. Patent applications reached peak of 90,000 in depression yr of '30.

Although Gov't has lifted restrictions on State fairs, a hasty check discloses that comparatively few will be able to hold customary annual event this yr. It takes time to arrange details, line up exhibits, etc. In some instances, State fair grounds and bldgs have been taken over by Gov't agencies and these have not yet been released. In the realm of World fairs, both Detroit and Los Angeles have announced plans for gigantic exhibitions to open in '46.

Many persons with relatives and friends in the armed forces overseas are beginning to wonder what to do about Christmas pkgs. Many will be released, of course, but there's no assurance as to just which ones will be headed for home. Meanwhile, the Postoffice dep't issues its customary reminder that the period for holiday mailing will be from Sept 15 to Oct 15.

Some wives of servicemen are becoming a bit vocal over municipal orders which bar them from respectable taverns unless they have male escort. They say designing hussies can always snare a man to get by the doorkeeper, while they, who seek only a pleasant social hour, are turned away.



AUTOMOBILES: Because of fabric shortages, some '45 models may employ laminated plastics on backs of front seats, as well as on ceilings, sides. Less costly, the plastic allows stains and smudges to be removed with damp cloth.

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FOOD — Preservation: Recently patented process involves "canning" foods in flexible plastic bags. Food is poured in bag and heat processed with top of container open. Top is closed, sealed while hot vapor is still rising from contents. When pkg is cooled the vapor condenses, collapsing top of bag upon upper surface of food. An outer carton is added for greater security in marketing.

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RADIO: Nationwide short wave radio system for police use is in the making. FCC is expected to grant exclusive use of clear channels. System will be used to transmit photos, warrants, evidence.—Capt Rob't L BARTS, addressing Associated Police Communications officers.

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TELEVISION: Revolutionary plan for N Y to Hollywood network for television and FM radio broadcasts from airplanes flying at 6 mi height is seriously proposed. Test flights this fall. Application filed with FCC. Called *Stratovision*, system will employ low-power ground transmitter to send video and FM broadcasts to specially designed high-altitude plane circling slowly overhead. Plane equipped with 4 television, 5 FM receivers and transmitters for rebroadcasting programs back to earth. Advantage: wider coverage; reception area up to 200 mi. Eight stratosphere planes, at strategic points comprise link. Estimated cost, one-plane set-up: \$500,000. (Westinghouse-Glenn L Martin Co.)

PSYCHOLOGY

The owner of a Chicago cafe, noting the pleading signs in every restaurant window for dishwashers, waitresses, cooks, decided on a different approach. He gave this sign prominent display:

NO HELP WANTED

We have sufficient capable help to assure our patrons Prompt and Efficient Service

The response was instantaneous. More people came in to eat. And before the 1st day had passed, 3 prospects stopped to ask about jobs. They were promptly hired. "It was the psychology of the thing," the owner concludes.—*Facts*.

RACE—Relations

While the Civil War was not fought solely to abolish slavery, it marked its end. The World War awarded votes to women. The present hate war may well bring to America a period of real reconciliation, in which every one of us Christians undertakes to cut thru our hedges of prejudice and to make friends with our neighbor, however he may differ from us in color or creed.—HENRY NOBLE McCracken, "Hatred is Born of Fear," *Christian Herald*, 7-'45.

REVENGE—Russian

This story, brought home by a ret'g service-man, concerns a big pow-wow met to discuss punishment of Nazi war criminals.

"I've brought along the British plan," said the delegates from London. "We have a plan, too," said the American delegate, plunking a heavy volume on the table. The Russian sat silent, his arms folded. "Where is your plan?" he was asked.

"The Russians have no plan," said the Muscovite. There were protestations of surprise. "No plan?" they asked incredulously. "No" said the Russian, reaching into his pocket, "We just have a list!"—BENNETT CERF, *Sat Rev of Literature*.

SALESMANSHIP

Salesmanship can be a racket, of course, but so can religion, law, education and the arts and sciences. The old-time gold-mining stock salesman and the oil-stock salesman have all but disappeared

from the American scene. In their places have come sincere, well-trained chaps who deliver a dollar-plus in value for every dollar's worth of orders they take.—BURTON BIGELOW, "Want to be a Salesman?" *American Legion Mag*, 7-'45.

TRADITION—Blind

In an old church at Valsbol the men for centuries followed the practice, when returning from the sacrament of standing on a particular spot and bowing in a certain direction. Why they did it no one knew, but later, in cleaning one of the walls, a picture of the Virgin Mary was discovered. It had been covered up by whitewash for 4 centuries before, and the worshippers continued to bow toward it long after everyone had forgotten it was there.—RICHARD BEAL, "True Worship," *Watchman-Examiner*, 8-9-'45.

VIEWPOINT

Ketti Frings, the scrivener, is an ardent booster of California, and loves to drum up enthusiasm for Hollywood. Recently she met a young bombardier who had just ret'd from Europe. "This is a beautiful spot," the flier observed. "I never saw such beauty. It takes my breath away."

"So you really like it?" exclaimed Miss Frings.

"Yeah," said the flier. "These moonlit nights; these white buildings nestling among the palm trees. What a target! You could bomb this place from 5 mi up and never miss!"—IRVING HOFFMAN, *Hollywood Reporter*.

WAR—Cause

A man began to lose his hair. It got thinner and thinner until finally he had but 1 hair left. He brushed that hair and combed it and shampooed it. One morning he woke up and looked down upon his pillow and there was the hair. He exclaimed: "My God! I'm bald." It is that way with war. It comes on gradually over many yrs. We wake up and find ourselves at war, but the roots of that war lie way back in the motives and habits and institutions of mankind.—JOY ELMER MORGAN, "Education, the Foundation of World Order," *School & Society*, 8-11-'45.

Genesis of a Race Riot

In the new book, *They Seek a City* (Doubleday, \$2.75) ARNA BONTEMPS and JACK CONROY tell the 1st connected story of Negro migration within the U S—a story that began with the Underground Railroad a century ago, and culminated in the clarion call for war workers that lured thousands of restless blacks (and irresponsible whites) to our industrial centers. The book is a thoughtful study of a race that comprises a tenth of our population. The gathering of data was made possible by grants issued independently to the two authors by Guggenheim Fellowship and the Rosenwald Fund. This volume is a study rather than a panacea. It offers no ready solution for neutralizing the dynamite of racial prejudice that may explode suddenly and inexplicably—as in the Detroit riot.

June 20, '43 was a hot and sultry day in Detroit, and in the evening large crowds of both Negroes and whites gathered in Belle Isle park on an island of the same name in the Detroit river. The perspiring citizens of the Arsenal of Democracy milled about restlessly, mopping brows and searching thruout the island for a breath of fresh air. About midnight, most witnesses agreed, the igniting spark of one of the most disastrous race riots in American history flared. There are dozens of versions of its genesis, but the one generally accepted is that a white man and Negro man came into proximity on a bridge and that shoving, a verbal exchange, and a fist fight attracted mbrs of both races who "took sides."

Rumor, as always, fanned the conflagration. A white (or Negro, according to the race of the teller) baby had been hurled into the river and drowned by a mbr of the other race. Negro men had torn the bathing suits from white girl bathers, raped and murdered them. These and many other inflammable reports agitated the Negroes of Paradise Valley as well as many of the white citizens. Leo Tipton, a Negro who was subsequently arrested for inciting to riot, hurried from Belle Isle to a night club in Paradise Valley. Breathlessly addressing 500 or so patrons, he begged them to "take care of a bunch of whites who killed a colored woman and her baby at Belle Isle park."

White hoodlums ranged thru the area near Woodward Ave, overturning and burning the automobiles of Negroes and beating Negro pedestrians. Negro bands began a systematic looting of stores owned by white people in Paradise Valley, assaulting any white person who might be encountered. The

riot continued thru the night. White gangs assembled in Cadillac Sq, the hub of Detroit's principal thoroughfares, and dragged Negro passengers from streetcars and buses to maul them, often to their amazement — they were unaware that a riot was in progress. White war workers leaving their shifts were set upon by vengeful Negroes.

Of the 34 persons officially killed during the disorders, 25 were Negroes. Seventeen of these were slain by the police for "looting." It was charged that "looting" too often served as an excuse for venting of an obvious prejudice. . .

There were some indications during the tragic welter of "Bloody Monday" and its aftermath that the seeds of racial tolerance and mutual respect sown so patiently by men like Claude Williams (founder People's Institute of Applied Religion) have not fallen on barren soil. Negroes and whites who lived together as neighbors had no trouble, nor did fellow workers in the war plants where the UAW have a contract. Negro and white students peaceably attended classes together at Wayne Univ while black and white rioters were bashing in one another's heads only a few blocks away.

Three white sailors in Cadillac Sq pitched into a gang in hot pursuit of a Negro, scientifically dispersed the shrieking teen-agers, leaving some of them nursing bruises on the ground.

"Why don't you mind your own business?" one of the incapacitated poolroom hoodlums inquired ruefully thru a missing tooth.

"That's just what we're doing, punk," a sailor replied. "We're doing this for a colored boy in our outfit that saved a couple of white lives over in the Pacific. He lost his own while he was doing it."



First Days at Hull House

As we observed some mo's ago, this yr marks the 30th anniversary of the founding, by Miss Addams, of the Women's Internat'l League for Peace and Freedom, as well as the 10th anniversary of the death of the renowned social worker. Jane Addams was born 85 yrs ago this coming wk (Sept 6, 1860) and it was 56 yrs ago this Sept that she and her associates moved into Hull House. Tho she took her social service in earnest, Miss Addams never overlooked the humorous aspects of a situation. This excerpt is from *Twenty Yrs at Hull House*.

One day at luncheon our kindergarten teacher recited her futile attempt to impress temperance principles upon the mind of an Italian mother, to whom she had ret'd a small daughter of five sent to the kindergarten "in quite a horrid state of intoxication" from the wine-soaked bread upon which she had breakfasted.

The mother listened politely to her graphic portrayal of the untimely end awaiting so immature a wine bibber; but long before the lecture was finished, quite unconscious of the incongruity, she hospitably set forth her best wines, and when her baffled guest refused one after the other, she disappeared only to quickly ret'n with a glass of whisky.

"See," she said with triumphant reassurance, "I have brought you the true American drink!"

The recital ended in seriocomic despair. Our instructor somewhat ruefully concluded that that "The impression I made upon her darkened mind was that it is the American custom to breakfast children on bread soaked in whisky instead of light Italian wine."

A new member of a certain government bureau made life miserable for his associates by pretending to absolute infallibility. One day, however, he startled his co-workers by admitting that once he had been wrong.

"You wrong?" exclaimed one of his listeners.

"Yes," replied the infallible man. "Once I thought I was wrong when I wasn't."—*Wall Street Journal*.

" "

A night clerk in a St Augustine, Fla hotel reports what we guess is an occurrence of quite a little significance. A lady who for 3 yrs has been a forewoman on the assembly line of a large war production plant registered in his hotel. With her was her husband. She seized the pen and wrote on the registration card: "Mrs Dora McNulty and husband, Cleveland, O."—*WALTER DAVENPORT, Collier's*.

" "

A minister, during an address said, "In every blade of grass there is a sermon." The following day one of his congregation found him mowing the lawn. "Well, sir," he said, "I'm glad to see you engaged in cutting your sermons short!"—*Cumberland Presbyterian*.



OF THE WEEK

FASHION: something that goes out of style as soon as everybody has one.—*Ship's Log*.

" "

PARENT: (collegiate definition) the kin you love to touch.—*Oral Hygiene*.

" "

PUPPY LOVE: beginning of a dog's life.

" "

Modern girls adore spinning wheels—but they like 4 of them, and a spare.—*Timely Tips*.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

GEO HERMAN ("Babe") RUTH

My favorite story is of a sandlot baseball game that lasted into late twilight. The trailing home team had finally managed to fill the bases. Two men were out and 2 strikes had been called on the batter. At this crucial moment, the pitcher and catcher of the rival team held a conference:

"It's so dark, nobody can see nothin'," said the pitcher. "I'm goin' to wind up and make believe I'm throwin' the ball, but instead I'll slip it to you now. After I go thru the motions, you pound your glove and pretend to make the catch."

The men ret'd to their positions and went thru the elaborate motions, as proposed. The umpire peered over and bellowed, "Str-r-ike three! You're out!"

At that decision the batter became enraged. He pounded his bat on the plate in a cry of frenzied injustice. "Strike!" he wailed, "That was no strike—it didn't come within 2 ft of the plate!"

An Englishman, visiting in this country, borrowed an automobile from an American friend and was setting out with considerable trepidation to tour the countryside. Scrupulously observing all of the roadside admonitions, he presently came to one reading, *Drive Carefully! This Means YOU!*

"Righto!" said our British cousin, slowing down to a conservative 20 mi per hr. "But Hi say," he mused to himself, snalling thru the village, "how do you suppose they knew I was over here?"

A Toronto businessman, mbr of one of that city's far-from-elaborate and presentedly down-at-the-heels luncheon clubs, was accosted by a sailor. The sailor wanted to know where he could get a beer, said he was dry as a whistle, that the pubs were sold out.

The businessman took him into the club, ordered the sailor a beer, chatted amiably. As the sailor dalled with his 3rd pint, he looked around at the club sitting room, suddenly glowered at his host.

"Huh, plutocrat, eh. You're the guys we gotta get rid of."—*Financial Post* (Toronto)

